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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02499 171424Z
ACTION IO-14

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, ELAB, UN
SUBJECT: GENEVA GENERAL SERVICES SALARY SCALE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: USUN 0545
1. INFORMATION CONVEYED TO USUN BY THE CANADIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK REGARDING THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ILO WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTING THE GENEVA GENERAL SERVICES' SALARY SCALE IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW TO BE THE PRESENT THINKING OF ILO DG BLANCHARD ABOUT WHAT HE MIGHT WISH TO PROPOSE TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY WHEN IT CONVENES FEBRARY 20-MARCH 3. BLANCHARD HAS VACILLATED ABOUT THIS SINCE THE UNGA DECISION WAS TAKEN. IT APPEARED ONLY A WEEK AGO THAT HE HAD BEEN PERSUADED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MCDONALD TO ADHERE TO A COMMON SYSTEM APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION BUT, PECULIARLY SENSITIVE ALWAYS TO ILO STAFF PRESSURES, APPEARS NOW TO BE SWINGING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AND WE UNDERSTAND THE STAFF PREFERENCE FOR A DOUBLE SCALE WILL PREVAIL IN HIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNING BODY. (TO DO SO, OF COURSE, WOULD INTRODUCE AN INTERESTING DOUBLE STANDARD INTO THE PAY
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02499 171424Z

SCALE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.) WHILE THE WESTERN MEMBERS OF ILO (THE IMEC MISSIONS) ARE AWARE, CONCERNED, AND CONSULTING AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT THE FOREGOING IT IS NOT CLEAR OTHER GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS HAVE YET BEEN APPRISED OF THE PROBLEM. AS OF MID-DAY FEBRUARY 17 THE GOVERNING BODY DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE STILL HAS NOT APPEARED.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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2. SO FAR AS WE KNOW BLANCHARD IS THE ONLY EXECUTIVE HEAD IN GENEVA PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATING THE BREAKING OF COMMON SYSTEM RANKS ON THIS MATTER. (THERE IS SOME ANGUISHING AT ITU, BUT THE ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SESSION IS THREE MONTHS OFF.) GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE ORDER IN WHICH THE GENEVA ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENT THE NEW SCALE IS BEING DETERMINED BY THE MEETING SCHEDULES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNING BODIES, AND NOT NECESSARILY BY THE DISPOSITIONS OF THEIR SENIOR EXECUTIVES.

3. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHAT PURPOSE THE CANADIANS WOULD HAVE IN MIND IN APPROACHING USYG DAVIDSON, OR WHY THEY WOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE TO AFFECT AN ILO DECISION. WE UNDERSTAND THE ILO GENEVA GROUP (IN WHICH THE US NO LONGER PARTICIPATES) WILL MEET AT 0900 ON FEBRUARY 20 (THE OPENING DAY OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING) WITH THE EXPECTATION OF AUTHORIZING A DEMARCHE ON BLANCHARD. AS A NON-MEMBER OF ILO, THE US WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. WHILE THE US DOES RETAIN A TRANS-CENDENT INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE COMMON SYSTEM, IT WOULD SEEM TO US HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE US SHOULD BE PARTY TO ANY APPROACH IN NEW YORK TO DAVIDSON INASMUCH AS THE MORE PERTINENT SUBJECT IS THAT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF ILO, NOT THE SYSTEM. VANDEN HEUVEL

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20 Mar 2014
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